

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a programmable washing machine comprising a laundry drum arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, which can be moved program-dependently with different speed profiles in both directions of rotation and comprising a real-time clock by means of which the user himself can determine the beginning or end of the washing process, and comprising an anti-crease operation incorporated after the wash and spin program sections for loosening the laundry in the drum, associated with an intermediate step in which the drum drive is driven with short and strong accelerating or braking pulses to bring about the detachment of a ring of laundry lying against the inner wall of the drum, formed during the spinning and in which the successful detachment of the laundry ring is monitored by means of comparative measurement data which are automatically determined by the program control system, wherein the subsequent anti-crease operation can be manipulated by the user.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the start and end time of the entire wash program including at least one of the anti-crease operation and the duration of the subsequent anti-crease operation can be freely selected by the user as well as the speed, duration of rotation and the time intervals between the rotation phases.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein when programming the anti-crease program section the user is guided and supported by means of a display in the manner that the program specifies to the user via the display values for the parameters speed, duration of rotation, duration of rest phases and total duration which are derived internally in the control system as a favorable average from a plurality of measurement data determined in comparative tests and stored in the memory, from the wash program selected by the user including the additionally input parameters and from the loading of the drum determined by the sensors, and that these default values can be changed at least one of upwardly and downwardly by the user.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the values set by the user for the anti-crease operation are compared internally in the control system with the selected laundry care program including the additional parameters and are checked for compatibility, and that an incompatible value is indicated in the display.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein an incompatible value is indicated by repeated flashing of the display indicator.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein for monitoring the detachment of the laundry ring from the inner wall of the drum at the beginning of the anti-crease operation in the reversing phases, at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data are recorded and these are compared with the corresponding measurement data which are obtained from the short analysis section incorporated before the wash program.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the comparative data are recorded during rotation of the laundry drum at feed speed and at a speed which was specified by the user for the anti-crease system.
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein when a laundry ring is identified, the laundry drum is briefly moved with high acceleration and braking pulses and that when a laundry ring is repeatedly registered, the laundry drum is moved with gradually increased accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a programmable washing machine having a program control system with a memory and for controlling operation of the washing machine, a laundry drum arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, with the drum being movable ~~with different speed profiles~~ at different speeds in both directions of rotation and being controllable by programs from the program control system, a display device, and a timing device by means of which the user himself can determine the beginning or end of the washing process, the method comprising the ~~following acts~~ steps of:
 - receiving input data from the user;
 - performing a washing program ~~in which a liquid is added to the drum and~~ wherein the drum and laundry are rotated in ~~the liquid~~ a soap solution to wash the laundry;
 - performing a spinning program in which the drum is rotated at a relatively high speed to remove water from the laundry, wherein a laundry ring ~~being~~ may be formed lying against the inner wall of the drum during the spinning program;

performing an anti-crease operation incorporated after the wash and spin program sections for loosening the laundry in the drum, the anti-crease operation comprising:

driving the drum with short and strong accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring lying from the inner wall of the drum; if a laundry rings has formed, monitoring the detachment of the laundry ring with a sensor sensing measurement data of the laundry ring and the program control system comparing the measurement data to initial measurement data; and

adjusting the anti-crease operation with the program control system in response to the input data from the user.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the anti-crease operation includes multiple rotation phases and the input data from the user includes desired operating parameters for the anti-crease operation including the duration of the anti-crease operation, the speed and duration of drum rotation during the rotation phases, and the time intervals between the rotation phases.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the following acts:
- determining operating parameters for the anti-crease operation including speed, duration of rotation, duration of rest phases, and total duration with the program control system from a plurality of measurement data determined in comparative tests and stored in the memory;
- displaying the operating parameters for the user on the display device;
- and
- receiving adjusted values of the operating parameters from the user.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the following acts:
comparing the adjusted values set by the user with pre-determined operating parameters in the program control system, and determining if the adjusted values are compatible with the pre-determined operating parameters; and
providing a signal on the display device if the adjusted values are incompatible with the pre-determined operating parameters
21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the signal includes a repeated flashing on the display device.
22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the act of measuring the initial measurement data with the sensor before the act of performing the washing program, the initial measurement data representing a start condition and the measurement data during the anti-crease operation being compared to the initial data from before the washing program to determine if the laundry ring has detached and returned to the start condition, wherein the measurement data sensed by the sensor includes at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data.
23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, further comprising the act of recording the measurement data during rotation of the laundry drum at feed speed and at a speed which was specified by the user for the anti-crease operation.
24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, further comprising the act of moving the laundry drum with relatively high

acceleration and braking pulses when a laundry ring is identified, and gradually increasing the accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring when the laundry ring is repeatedly registered.

25. (Currently Amended) A programmable washing machine comprising:
- a program control system with a memory and controlling operation of the washing machine;
 - a soap-solution container for retaining liquids;
 - a laundry drum for receiving laundry and being arranged rotatably inside a soap-solution container, the drum being movable with different speed profiles in both directions of rotation and being controllable by washing programs, spinning programs, and anti-crease operations from the program control system;
 - a display device displaying operational data of the washing machine for a user;
 - an input device for receiving input data from the user, the input data being transferred to the program control system;
 - a timing device ~~by means of which the user himself can determine~~ for use by a user to set at least one of the beginning ~~or~~ and end of the washing process;
 - a sensor sensing measurement data to detect the presence of a laundry ring formed against an inner wall of the drum, the sensor sensing initial measurement data before the running of the washing program and sensing current measurement data during the running of the anti-crease operation, the program control system comparing the current measurement data and the initial measurement data to determine the presence of the laundry ring;
 - a means for adjusting the operating parameters of the anti-crease operation in response to the input data from the user, the anti-crease

operation including driving the drum with short and strong accelerating and braking pulses to detach the laundry ring lying from the inner wall of the drum; and

a-means for adjusting the operating parameters of the anti-crease operation in response to the program control system determining the presence of the laundry ring.

26. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the operating parameters include the duration of the anti-crease operation, the speed and duration of drum rotation, and the time intervals of rest phases between drum rotation.
27. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the measurement data sensed by the sensor includes at least one of mechanical, acoustic and optical measurement data.
28. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 25, wherein the program control system includes a memory and the measurement data sensed by the sensor is recorded in the memory of the program control system.
29. (New) A method for operating a programmable washing machine having a laundry drum rotatably disposed inside a soap-solution container, said drum being configured for controlled movement at different speeds in both directions of rotation and including a real-time clock by means for determining the duration of the washing process, and a user interface for displaying information for a user and for receiving user input, wherein the washing machine is programmed to perform said method comprising the steps of:

executing a washing program wherein said drum is rotated relatively slowly in alternating directions to immerse clothes being washed in a soap-solution;

monitoring predetermined operational parameters to determine whether a laundry ring has formed against the drum, and, upon sensing a laundry ring, rotating the drum with relatively short strong pulses to dislodge the laundry ring;

executing a rinsing program wherein said drum is rotated at a relatively moderate speed in a single direction to rinse soap from clothes being washed;

executing a spin program wherein said drum is rotated at a relatively high speed to extract water from clothes being washed;

executing an anti-crease program wherein said drum is rotated in alternating directions for loosening the laundry in the drum.

30. (New) The method for operating a programmable washing machine according to claim 29 said anti-crease operation can be manipulated by the user and said method further includes the steps of presenting options for adjusting predetermined program parameters by a user using said user interface to input adjustments.
31. (New) The method for operating a programmable washing machine according to claim 29 and further comprising the steps of adjusting at least one of the anti-crease operational program duration, rotational speed and duration of rotation.